




FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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|  | Policy Number: 283-13 | Effective Date: 04/23/2018 |  |
| | Subject: Storage of Evidence for Laboratory Submission | | |
| | Approved by:  Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police | | |

PURPOSE:

To establish procedures for the storage of evidence which is to be submitted for laboratory examination and the procedure for submission of perishable evidence for laboratory examination.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to collect, maintain, and store perishable evidence as not to damage or prevent laboratory examination and to properly submit this evidence to a laboratory for examination.

DEFINITION:

Perishable Evidence: Any evidence item containing wet and/or dry biological material; any evidence item liable to perish, spoil, or decay.

PROCEDURE:

Perishable items should be placed in appropriate packaging material such as paper bags or paper envelopes in order to be acceptable for any possible lab testing, especially for biological material. See Policy 283-01 for additional information about proper packaging of evidence. Items will be stored in a safe and secure manner within the evidence room to ensure items will not be destroyed. Consult with Evidence Technicians if additional care is required for an item during storage.

State of New Mexico Senate Bill 475, Chapter 99 as amended relating to Sexual Assault; Requiring Law Enforcement Agencies to develop and implement policies related to handling and testing of sexual assault examination kits; requiring testing of sexual assault examination kits within 30 days; requiring reporting.

Sexual Assault Kits (of victim) will be picked up by a CSO or Patrol Officer and Sexual Assault Kits (of suspect) by a Patrol Officer. The SANE kit will be transported to the Evidence Room and submitted as evidence. The investigating Officer will notify the Detective Unit Supervisor of the SANE kit submission as to expedite our role in submitting Sexual Assault Kits to the New Mexico D.P.S. Laboratory for analysis. ****Note:** Non reportable Sexual Assault Kits cannot be submitted to the D.P.S. Laboratory.

Amended Memorandum dated 22 January 2015 Re: DFSA samples

Effective October 1, 2017, DFSA kits will no longer be picked up by CSO's or patrol officers from the SANE Office as part of the rape kit. The DFSA kits will be the sole responsibility of the SANE Office to submit those samples directly to the Scientific Laboratory Division, Toxicology Bureau in Albuquerque in a timely manner.

Elimination standards may be required for testing of evidence. This is at the discretion of the laboratory where testing will be completed. For all property crimes where DNA testing is being requested, an elimination standard will be required per New Mexico D.P.S. policy. At minimum, a standard must be collected from the primary driver of a vehicle, the homeowner of a residence, and/or the manager of a business. This sample should be collected at the time the evidence is being collected from the scene. If this is not possible, the standard must be collected in a timely manner by the assigned officer. When this sample is collected, it will be entered into evidence storage.

The officer submitting the item into evidence storage or assigned as the case officer is responsible to ensure the evidence is submitted for laboratory examination in a timely manner. See Policy 283-15 for additional information about evidence submissions for laboratory examination.

When evidence is being submitted to a laboratory for examination the item will be submitted following the standards for submission set by the requested laboratory. Per Policy 283-15, a record of the submission is maintained.